

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Official Action mailed August 18, 2006. In the present paper, claims 14-18 are canceled. Claims 7 and 8 had been canceled in a previous paper. Claims 1-6 and 9-13 and 19-21 are now presented for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following remarks.

The Drawings

Applicants acknowledge the acceptance of the drawings as filed on September 29, 2004.

The Specification

The Examiner has acknowledged Applicants' claim for the benefit of a prior-filed application, but has stated that Applicants have failed to include the relationship of the present application to the priority applications. Applicants have amended the first paragraph of the application to include the relationship of the present application with both priority applications.

Although both the specification and the declaration contained the benefit claim, the Office did not officially recognize that claim by including it in the Filing Receipt. Applicants have therefore included herewith a PETITION TO ACCEPT AN UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED BENEFIT CLAIM UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 120, together with the surcharge under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(t). Applicants submit that the benefit claim should now be included in the application.

The Claims

The Examiner has allowed claims 1-6, 9-13 and 19-21. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of those claims, and for correcting the status identifier of claim 21.

Applicants have canceled the rejected claims 14-18 to place the application in condition for allowance in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.113(c), and without prejudice.

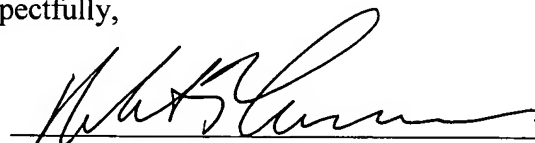
Conclusion

Applicants therefore earnestly request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present case, the Examiner should not hesitate in contacting the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully,

By



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